Doubling of Food Production

*12. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been considering strategies for doubling of food production in the next twenty years; if so, what are the details of the plan in this regard;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have identified thrust areas to concentrate on;

(c) what parts of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra are covered under the plan; and

(d) what special steps are being considered for the Bundelkhand region of M.P. and U.P.?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (d) Sir, in consonance with the National Agenda for Governance envisaging doubling food production in the next ten years, the Planning Commission have suggested the following targets for various food items:

Food Items	Production Targets (Million Tonnes)		
	IX Plan (2001-02)	X Plan (2006-07)	Action Plan (2007-08)
1	2	3	4
Rice	99.0	124.2	130.0
Wheat	83.0	104.1	109.0
Coarse Cereals	35.5	40.0	41.0
Pulses	16.5	19.4	20.0
Total foodgrains	234.0	287.7	300.0

1	2	3	4
Oilseeds	30.0	42.7	45.0
Sugarcane	336.0	435.2	495.0
Fruits & Vegetables	179.0	307.2	342.0
Milk	87.0	121.5	130.0
Egg (Million Nos.)	3500.0	4928.6	5300.0
Fish	6.9	9.1	9.6

It may be mentioned that target of 'Doubling Food Production' includes not only foodgrain crops but also oilseeds, sugar, fruits and vegetables, milk, eggs and fish production.

For doubling the food production, an Action Plan has been prepared on the basis of regionally differentiated strategy based on different agro-climatic zones. The main features of the strategy for crops are as follows:

(a) Promoting cropping system approach of increasing the production and productivity of cereals crops as a whole against the individual crop approach. Encouragement will be given to follow green manuring and use of compost and other organic sources;

(b) Encouraging varietal replacement and propagation of newer location specific High Yielding Varieties with biotic and abiotic resistance;

(c) Improving the resource based of the farmers and encouraging devices for efficient water management for timely and effective field operations;

(d) Popularisation of improved crop production technologies through organisation of field demonstrations on farmer's holdings and training of farmers and farm labourers including women;

(e) Encouraging the integrated nutrient management for sustainable agricultural production;

(f) Greater emphasis on the adoption of Integrated Pest Management Approach to control the pests and diseases and

also use of weedicides to control the weed menace to crops;

(g) More emphasis on the proper adoption of non-monetary inputs like timely sowing, maintaining optimum plant population, efficient use of fertiliser and need based plant protection measures; and

(h) Extension education efforts will be strengthened to make farmers more receptive to new technology.

For achieving these targets of foodgrains production, the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing a number of Centrally Sponsored and Central Sector Schemes in different States of the country including Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, such as Integrated Cereals Development Programme Rice in Eastern Madhya Pradesh; Coarse Cereals in other parts of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra; and Wheat in Western Uttar Pradesh, including Bundelkhand region. In addition, National Pulses Development Project is being implemented for the development of Pulses in the States of M.P., Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh besides other States.

Aid Received from Italy

*13. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the aid received from Italy during the last two years especially in Social Sector; and

(b) the measures taken to establish a stable long term relationship with Italy?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) A statement listing ongoing bilateral projects in which Italian assistance has received during the last two years, is enclosed. (*See* below)

(b) India and Italy have taken concrete measures to strengthen